

## Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCCT-01 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 132178

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC (SMITH AND HUNTER)

SUBJECT: KIDNAPPED AMERICANS: VAGNI TRIP

REF: A) BUJUMBURA 397 B) DAR ES SALAAM 1917; C) KIN 4767

1. BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT THAT WE ALL HAVE FAIRLY CLEAR  
AND AGREED UNDERSTANDING OF SCOPE OF VAGNI'S ROLE AND  
WHAT WE HOPE HE CAN ACHIEVE. AS WE ENVISAGE IT, VAGNI  
WOULD USE TRIP TO MISSION STATIONS TO GET OUT MESSAGE  
FOR PRP ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

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A. VAGNI HAS BEEN ASKED TO TRY TO ENTER INTO DIRECT CONTACT WITH PRP TO CONFIRM CAPTIVES' WELLBEING AND DISCUSS THEIR RELEASE.

B. GOZ HAS AGREED TO HIS DOING THIS AND HAS OFFERED ASSURANCES THAT IT WILL DO NOTHING TO INTERFERE.

C. VAGNI THEREFORE INVITES PRP TO SEND MESSAGE TO HIM IN ANY WAY IT CHOOSES, CONFIRMING CAPTIVES' WELLBEING, INDICATING THAT IT IS WILLING TO MEET WITH HIM, AND GIVING INSTRUCTIONS ABOUT HOW SUCH A MEETING SHOULD BE SET UP. VAGNI ASSURES PRP THAT HE AND ANY MEMBER OF MISSION THROUGH WHOM MESSAGE IS PASSED TO HIM WILL TREAT DETAILS OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR MEETING WITH HIM WITH COMPLETE CONFIDENTIAL (I.E., WILL REVEAL SUCH DETAILS TO NO RPT NO THIRD PARTY, INCLUDING GOZ, GOT, USG, GON, AND PARENTS AND THEIR REP).

D. IF PRP DOES NOT WISH TO DEAL WITH VAGNI AS INTERMEDIARY, IT SHOULD DESIGNATE SOMEONE ELSE WITH WHOM IT WOULD BE WILLING TO DEAL. VAGNI AND OTHER MEMBERS OF MISSION WOULD BE WILLING TO HELP FACILITATE SUCH CONTACT AND, AGAIN, WOULD TREAT ALL ARRANGEMENTS FOR CONTACT WITH COMPLETE CONFIDENTIALITY.

2. SIMILAR MESSAGE INFORMING PRP OF VAGNI'S AVAILABILITY AS INTERMEDIARY AND ASKING THAT THEY SIGNAL THEIR WILLINGNESS TO DEAL WITH HIM OR THEIR PREFERENCE FOR SOMEONE ELSE COULD ALSO BE FLOATED, AT MACFARLANE/STEINER DISCRETION, THROUGH LOCAL CHANNELS THAT MAY BE IDENTIFIED IN KIGOMA, RUMONGE OR ELSEWHERE ALONG LAKE. SUCH MESSAGE OR MESSAGES WOULD APPEAL TO PRP TO MAKE CONTACT WITH VAGNI/MISSION NETWORK PER SUB PARA C PARA 1 ABOVE OR TO SIGNAL BACK BY ANY MEANS IT WISHES ITS PREFERENCE FOR DIRECT DEALING WITH INTERMEDIARY OTHER THAN VAGNI.

3. ABOVE SCENARIO WILL OF COURSE HAVE TO BE FLESHED OUT IN GREATER DETAIL ON THE SPOT, BUT UNLESS ACTION ADDRESSEES PERCEIVE OBJECTION TO MAIN LINES, LOVING/STEINER/MACFARLANE MAY PROPOSE TO VAGNI AT NEXT MEETING (BUJUMBURA 396) THAT CONFIDENTIAL

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HE EMBARK UPON MISSION ALONG THESE LINES ASAP ONCE GOZ CONDITION (REF C) HAS BEEN MET. ACTION ADDRESSEES PLEASE CABLE CONCURRENCE OR COMMENTS ASAP. IF KINSHASA CONCURS, IT SHOULD AT SAME TIME RECONFIRM THAT REQUISITE GOZ ASSURANCES ARE IN HAND.

4. WE REALIZE THAT, IF WE READ PARA 3 REF A CORRECTLY, THIS SCENARIO MAY GO SOMEWHAT BEYOND WHAT HAS SO FAR BEEN

WORKED OUT WITH VAGNI INSOFAR AS IT MAKES PROVISION FOR HIS MEETING DIRECTLY WITH PRP FOR INITIAL DISCUSSIONS OF HOSTAGES' RELEASE IF OCCASION TO DO SO DEVELOPS. WE BELIEVE THAT, IN ORDER TO GET DIALOGUE GOING AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE, IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR VAGNI TO BE PREPARED TO MAKE SUCH DIRECT CONTACT EVEN ON HIS FIRST TRIP.

5. WE SEE NO REASON WHY VAGNI EFFORT SHOULD NOT PROCEED DESPITE FACT THAT POSSIBLE NEW CHANNEL BEING OPENED IN KIGOMA, AS REPORTED REF B. FACT THAT VAGNI ROLE HAS BEEN MENTIONED TO KIGOMA EMISSARY HOPEFULLY WILL INCREASE CHANCES THAT PRP WILL RESPOND TO VAGNI'S OVERTURES. SINCE WE WISH TO MAINTAIN VAGNI'S CONFIDENCE, AND TO AVOID ANY POSSIBLE MISUNDERSTANDINGS THAT MIGHT ARISE IN EITHER

CHANNEL, SUGGEST BUJUMBURA INFORM VAGNI OF APPEARANCE OF PRP EMISSARY IN KIGOMA AND MESSAGE WE HAVE ASKED HIM TO CONVEY TO KIDNAPPERS. KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

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